

EPA TO REQUIRE ARCO TO TREAT DISCHARGE FROM ST. LOUIS

TUNNEL AT RICO, CO: *EPA has advised ARCO that it will require ARCO to treat the discharge from the St. Louis Tunnel at the Rico-Arentine Mine located immediately outside of Rico, Colorado.* EPA is currently conducting a Removal Site Evaluation which will identify the full extent of needed treatment for the discharge from the St. Louis Tunnel. Although EPA had advised ARCO in October 2003 that it intended to issue ARCO a CERCLA § 106 order to treat the St. Louis Tunnel discharge, EPA backtracked after pressure from the Town of Rico, including assurances from the Town that the Town and ARCO would form a non-profit corporation, to be funded by ARCO, to treat the discharge. While that non-profit was formed in 2006, no plan for treating the discharge ever materialized. After discussions with, and encouragement from, the Town of Rico Plamer, EPA has started the process of making the contacts needed to facilitate EPA's effort with ARCO. That included a recent call to ARCO's environmental manager advising him of EPA's intentions. EPA's efforts will consist of working with ARCO to develop an AOC. If that's unsuccessful, a UAO will be considered.

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